# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4301
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Olive Ridley Turtle
Parthipan Shri R.;Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Hope Island in Andhra Pradesh has become the graveyard for Olive Ridley Turtles recently and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether mechanized fishing boats in the Bay of Bengal Coastline are causing the deaths of the Olive Ridley Turtles, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the eggs laid by the said turtles in Gahirmatha Sanctuary in Odisha are getting destroyed due to shrinking coastal space, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the beach areas for nesting purpose of the Olive Ridley Turtles in Gahirmatha Sanctuary as well as in Visakhapatnam beach in Andhra Pradesh; and
(e) the steps being taken for the protection and conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles and their habitats in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)&(b) As informed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, during current season, 85 nos. of deaths of Olive Ridley Turtles were noticed in Hope Island in Andhra Pradesh due to such turtles getting caught in Trawler nets.

The State Government of Odisha has banned mechanised fishing in Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary and in other 3 restricted zones of Dhamara, Devi and Rushikulya river mouths for 7 months starting from 1st November every year to 31st May of next year commensurate with the turtle nesting season till 20 Km. from coast line. The State Government has imposed ban on mechanised fishing all around the year along the entire 480 Km. long coastline till 5 Km. from the coastline because of the possibility of death of marine turtles due to such activity.

The State Government has also taken steps to create awareness in this regard among Line departments like Fisheries Department, Fishing communities with the help of NGOs, ban mechanized fishing trawlers to operate beyond 8 nautical miles, and, create awareness for use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) amongst the trawler fishermen boats in all Coastal Districts.

(c) No study has been carried out by the State Government of Odisha to ascertain shrinking of coastal space and the eggs of sea turtles getting destroyed therein.

(d) Erosion of the beaches at some locations and accretion in another site is a natural process that takes place throughout the year. There are no plans for carrying interventions for increasing the beach area at Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Community Based Conservation of Sea Turtles (CBCST) Programme every year during the season involving Fishermen and local tribal for the protection and conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles in Visakhapatnam beach.

(e) Details of steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles and their habitats in the country are given at Annexure.

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